**Multiple Choice Answer Key**

1-C (Unit I)   
2-D (Unit I)   
3-A (Unit I)   
4-A (Unit I)   
5-C (Unit I)   
6-C (Unit I)   
7-E (Unit I)   
8-D (Unit I)  
9-E (Unit I)  
10-C (Unit II)  
11-E (Unit II)  
12-A (Unit II)  
13-E (Unit II)  
14-C (Unit II)  
15-E (Unit II)  
16-C (Unit II)  
17-D (Unit II)  
18-B (Unit II)  
19-E (Unit III)  
20-E (Unit III)  
21-C (Unit III)  
22-A (Unit III)  
23-A (Unit III)  
24-A (Unit III)  
25-C (Unit III)  
26-C (Unit III)  
27-B (Unit III)  
28-B (Unit IV)  
29-A (Unit IV)  
30-C (Unit IV)  
31-A (Unit IV)  
32-A (Unit IV)  
33-C (Unit IV)  
34-D (Unit V)  
35-D (Unit V)  
36-D (Unit V)  
37-C (Unit V)  
38-A (Unit V)  
39-B (Unit V)  
40-B (Unit V)  
41-E (Unit V)  
42-D (Unit V)  
43-A (Unit V)  
44-D (Unit V)  
45-B (Unit V)  
46-C (Unit V)  
47-A (Unit V)  
48-D (Unit V)  
49-D (Unit V)  
50-B (Unit V)  
51-A (Unit V)  
52-A (Unit V)   
53-C (Unit V)  
54-B (Unit V)  
55-E (Unit VI)  
56-D (Unit VI)  
57-E (Unit VI)  
58-C (Unit VI)  
59-A (Unit VI)  
60-B (Unit VI)

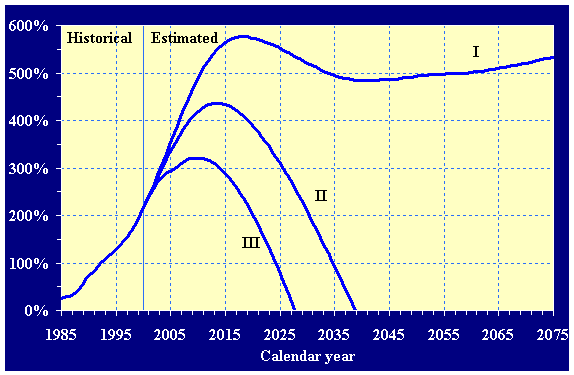
**Short Answer Key**

1. The framers of the United States Constitution created a legislative system that is bicameral. However, it is not just bicameral; the framers also established two houses of distinctly different character and authority.

* Discuss two reasons why the framers created a bicameral legislature. [2]
  + Equalize representation between large and small states
  + Slow the legislative process
  + Prevent the majority from constant wins
  + Protect minority interest
  + Give different types of representation
* Identify one power unique to the House of Representatives and explain why the framers gave the House that power. [2]
  + Impeachment
  + Ability to choose the president (if the electoral college is in gridlock)
  + Initiate revenue bills
    - Brings the House closer to the public
    - Representatives are more engaged with the public because they serve only two years
    - The House is more representational of the country’s demographic
* Identify one power unique to the Senate and explain why the framers gave the Senate that power. [2]
  + Impeachment trial and conviction
  + Treaty ratification
  + Must approve judicial and executive appointments
    - More mature/esteemed entity
    - More isolated from public opinion
    - Reflect state interest
    - Longer terms

2. The United States Constitution has endured for more than two centuries as the framework of government. However, the meaning of the Constitution has been changed both by formal and informal methods.

* Identify two formal methods for adding amendments to the Constitution. [2]
  + Proposal
    - 2/3 vote in both houses of Congress
    - National Constitution convention (has never occurred in US history)
  + Ratification
    - by legislature in ¾ of states
    - by convention in ¾ of states
* Describe two informal methods that have been used to change the meaning of the Constitution. Provide one specific example for each informal method you described. (Example must be linked to correct method) [4]
  + Courts (judicial review)
  + Elastic clause
  + Changes in political customs
* Explain why informal methods are used more often than the formal amendment process. [1]
  + Easier and faster
  + Gets rid of the Congressional voting and executive approval

3. In recent decades, entitlement programs have constituted a substantial portion of the United States federal budget. Social Security is the largest entitlement program in the United States. From the information in the chart and your knowledge of United States government and politics, perform the following tasks.

* Define entitlement program. [1]
  + Government sponsored programs that provide benefits to those who meet the qualifications (Must mention government involvement and requirements)
* What is the primary source of revenue for the Social Security program? [1]
  + Payroll taxes
  + Income based taxes
  + Targeted/earmarked taxes
  + Wages from current earners
* Identify one threat to the future of the Social Security program should the trends depicted in the chart above continue. [2]
  + Money may run out
  + Outputs are exceeding inputs
  + Money reserve is running low
* Describe one demographic trend that threatens the future of the Social Security program AND explain how it is responsible for the threat that you identified in the third bullet. [3]
  + More older people than younger people (Baby Boomers)
  + Decline in birth rate
  + Greater life expectancy
  + More people are becoming eligible for benefits, but less people are funding the program
  + More people reach eligibility, and less people pay funds
* Explain how any one of the trends in the chart would change if the age of eligibility for Social Security were raised. [1]
  + If people were to work longer, it would help equalize the amount paid in with the amount paid out

4. While interest groups and political parties each play a significant role in the United States political system, they differ in their fundamental goals.

* Identify the fundamental goal of interest groups in the political process.[2]
  + Impact public policy
  + Alter/Create laws
  + Impact the legislature (Gain attention in Congress)
* Identify the fundamental goal of major political parties in the political process. [2]
  + Win elections
  + Gain a majority of seats
* Describe two different ways by which interest groups support the fundamental goal of political parties in the political process. [2]
  + Monetary donations
  + PAC donations
  + Candidate endorsements
  + Media campaigns
  + 527s (Independent committees)
* For one of the forms of support you described in the third bullet, explain two different ways in which that form of support helps interest groups to achieve their fundamental goal in the political process. [2]
  + Examples of legislature that aided a specific interest group
  + Gives them a voice in the public
  + Access/influence of endorsed candidates shines light on their view

Bibliography

* Free Response Questions
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* Multiple Choice Questions
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* Graphic for Short Response
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